

REMARKS:

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of November 7, 2002 is respectfully requested.

The specification and abstract have been reviewed and revised to make a number of editorial revisions. Due to the number of changes involved, a substitute specification and abstract have been prepared and are submitted herewith. No new matter has been added. For the Examiner's benefit, a marked-up copy of the original specification and abstract, indicating the changes made thereto, is also enclosed. The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter the substitute specification and abstract.

The Examiner has indicated that claims 1-15 contain allowable subject matter, but has also rejected claims 4, 9, and 13-15 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In particular, the Examiner asserts that the term "possibly" recited in these claims renders the scope of the claims unclear. In this regard, it is noted that the term "possibly" also appears in original claims 5 and 6.

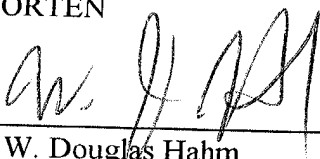
In order to address the Examiner's rejections, and in order to place the original claims in a preferred form, original claims 1-15 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 16-36, including new independent claim 16 which corresponds to original independent claim 1. It is submitted that the scope of the new claims corresponds to the scope of the original claims, although the original rejected dependent claims containing the term "possibly" have been drafted as two separate claims so as to overcome the rejection. Furthermore, the claims have been drafted so as to fully comply with all of the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner's rejections under § 112 are not applicable to the new claims.

In view of the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter, it is submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance. However, if the Examiner believes that there are any remaining unresolved issues, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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